

The Hal yard



CHARLIE'S CHATTER

It is a sad thing. The regional meetings are finished. Each year the meetings get better and better. The regional directors and their committees should feel a great deal of satisfaction at the outstanding participation and the quality of sessions that were offered. I am awed by the enthusiasm and excitement that I experienced in my travels.

Last week began in Virginia Beach where a huge crowd was treated to wonderful sessions, from collaboration to academic connections to book talks and beyond! It was a truly incredible day to exchange ideas and see old friends and make new ones. The week ended in Fredericksburg with the York Regional. Among the opportunities for professional growth were sessions by representatives from the Library of Con-

gress showing incredible resources, the Connections database from Fairfax County, reading enrichment strategies, and opportunities for lesson sharing with each other.

I would like to extend my



<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml>

thanks to our VEMA president, Kathy Lehman who attended all of

(Continued on page 3)

April 15, 2005

Special points of interest:

- *May is Get Caught Reading Month*
- *May 3-4 National Library Legislative Day*
- *April is National Poetry Month*

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ?

Want to make your patrons more aware of the cost of books? Hand them a bookmark that estimates the cost of the books that they are checking out. For example: If they check out 3 books the bookmark indicates that the average value of the books you are borrowing is \$30-80.00 Four to eight items would be \$100-200.00, etc. The bookmarks could

be on different color paper to indicate the value of the books /materials selected.

The bookmarks could also carry the name, address, and hours of the library and maybe a catch slogan about the value that libraries bring to learning.

Academic Success @ Your Library



TECHNOLOGY BLACKOUT DAY

Imagine one full day without technology...

The lesson plans, activities and supporting materials within this Website will help you and your students take a journey through time that examines the impact of technology on our society. We ask you to begin to imagine the impact that technology will have on students entering the 21st century workforce and the possibilities inherent in a technology literate society.

Modern technologies have revolutionized business and enhance teaching and learning with data driven decision making, curriculum management for individualized instruction, and online learning that helps close the achievement gap and builds teacher quality and retention.

We hope that students, teachers and parents will realize the importance of technology today and its growing impact on students entering the 21st century workforce as well as the obvious possibilities if our nation develops a technology literate society. The Imagine A Technology Blackout Day can be a short exercise on April 20th, or a more comprehensive process of self exploration throughout the course of a few weeks or a month. Prizes will be awarded randomly to participants who submit their results on or before May 20th, 2005.

Beginning with a brief overview and technology timeline, your students may develop their own definition of technology and analyze the impact that innovation has had on their daily lives and our nation. Addressing state standards in social studies and language arts, Imagine A Technology Blackout Day will also reinforce efficacy, innovation, traditional literacy and technology skills.

Participating in this important activity is FREE! It is a great way to introduce the topic of technology's role in society and offer some exciting chances to win great prizes when you submit your results!



For more information visit:
<http://www.technologyblackoutday.com/>

QUESTIA FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Last year, Questia offered free one year subscriptions to its online resources. This year it has been expanded to include middle school libraries. Questia is an online library currently featuring 50,000 textbooks and 400,000 articles. For more information, contact www.questia.com

Questia is the first online library that provides 24/7 access to the world's largest online collection of books and journal articles in the humanities and social sciences, plus magazine and newspaper articles. You can search each and every word of all of the books and journal articles in the collection. You can read every title cover to cover. This rich, scholarly content -- selected by professional collection development librarians -- is not available elsewhere on the Internet. Undergraduate, high school, graduate students, and Internet users of all ages have found Questia to be an invaluable online resource. Anyone doing research or just interested in topics that touch on the humanities and social sciences will find titles of interest in Questia.

To complement the library, Questia offers a range of search, note-taking, and writing tools. These tools help students locate the most relevant information on their topics quickly, quote and cite correctly, and create properly formatted footnotes and bibliographies automatically. Questia provides a comprehensive research environment to meet students' academic needs.



Libraries online and on time!

CREATING REPEAT READERS

Read It Again, they shout! How many times do you have students ask you to read the same book or story over and over again? The April issue of School Library Journal explores why children want us to re-read stories over and over again. The article points out that young children hear something different each time the story is read and that it often will take 4-14 times hearing a word before it becomes part of their vocabulary.

The article states, "Children feel secure with books they know. Brain research tells us that children learn best and absorb new information when they feel confident and secure.

So get ready to Read It AGAIN!!!!

What are your students favorite "read agains"?

For suggestions:

Jim Trelease's The Read-Aloud Handbook

Hedgehog Books, <http://www.hedgehogbooks.com/press.html>

Judy Freeman's Books Kids Will Sit Still For (The Complete Read-Aloud Guide)

Linda Bendall's Literature Links, <http://www.lindaslinkstoliterature.com/lll/teachertools.htm>



Time spent reading to children is never wasted.

CHARLIE'S CHATTER CONT'D

the regionals and presented information on how to present Linking Libraries to your faculty. Her sessions were outstanding successes and I appreciate her continued support of school libraries and academic achievement. I would also like to thank Virginia Wallace and her Information Power: Standards and Achievement Committee for also presenting at all seven regional meetings. Each presentation focused on looking at our own programs and at ourselves as professionals. My thanks to each of you that took time to present these informative sessions.

Just for the record, the Linking Libraries ship sailed 1,216 miles in attending all of the regional meetings!

"If we can not stop incentifying reading, we can not aspire to step from Potter to Poe, Beckum to Beckett, and Huang to Hamlet, (and) then the living word of reading will suffer an ignoble death."

Grant Mudge

Artistic Director Encore Theatre Company

COMMUNICATION 101

Core Values.....Mission Statements.....
Shared Vision.....

What do these terms have to do with school libraries? Every program in order to be successful must identify who they are and what they want to accomplish. And these statements need to be com-

municated to the people the organization serves. The school library program serves the students and teachers who attend the school and as such the values, mission, and vision should be determined with those stakeholders in mind.

(Continued on page 4)

COMMUNICATING CORE VALUES

What do your patrons say about the library?

1. Are you appealing to their emotions?
2. Are you aware of the esthetics of the room?
3. Is your product identifiable? Is there a slogan, logo, a color of paper that immediately causes recognition that it is from the library?
4. What about ergonomics? Is the library easy to use?
5. What is the status of the technology?
6. Is equipment AND staff reliable?
7. Is the library known for its quality work and resources?
8. How do you communicate with the library users?
9. What value do people place on the libraries services?
10. What do people associate with your library?

COMMUNICATION 101 con't

Take some time this spring and write out what you feel are your core values, what is the mission of the library program in your school and then how do those relate to the vision of the school, or the division. Make an appointment with your building level administrator before you go home for the summer and share your thoughts with them. Together determine the who, what, when, where, and why the school library fits into the school's plan of action for the coming year.

Use the resource documents, Academic Success @ Your Library, available at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Technology/OET/library.shtml> as a starting point for developing your thoughts on values, missions, and vision.



Office of Educational Technology

P O Box 2120

Richmond VA 23218-2120

Phone: 804.786.9412

Fax: 804.371.2455

Email: Charlie.Makela@doe.virginia.gov

We can not control the wind, but we can adjust the sails.